IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the~~ quality evaluation of electronically stored, ~~in particular medical~~ knowledge data ~~(4), having the following steps~~the method comprising:
— storing ~~the~~ knowledge data ~~(4) are stored~~ in a database ~~(12)~~; and
— correlating quality data ~~(20) correlated~~ with the knowledge data ~~are~~ stored in the database ~~(12)~~, a user ~~(28)~~ ~~storing~~ at least one of storing the quality data ~~(20)~~ in the database ~~(12)~~ at least one of during and~~or~~ after access to the knowledge data ~~(4)~~, ~~or~~ and storing result data from the application of knowledge data ~~(4) being stored~~ in a result database ~~(64)~~ and correlating quality data with the result data, ~~(20) correlated with~~ the application of the knowledge data ~~(4) are~~being automatically generated and stored in the database and, ~~(12)~~ ~~when~~upon the user ~~(28)~~ accesse~~s~~ing the knowledge data ~~(4)~~, the quality data ~~(20) are~~ automatically being ~~provided to the user ~~(28)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein
— the user ~~(28)~~ applies the knowledge data ~~(4)~~, and
— quality data ~~(20)~~ correlated with the results of the application are stored in the database ~~(12)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein
— ~~preselected~~ quality criteria ~~(59, 66)~~ correlated with the knowledge data ~~(4)~~ are stored in the database ~~(12)~~.

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4.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein

—___an identification of the user ~~(28)~~ is assigned to the quality data ~~(20)~~ and stored in the database ~~(12)~~.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein

_____—the user ~~(28)~~ determines quality data ~~(20)~~ with a time delay after application of the knowledge data ~~(4)~~, and

_____—the user ~~(28)~~ is automatically requested to store the quality data ~~(20)~~ in the database ~~(12) at predetermined times~~.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

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_____—the result database ~~(64)~~ is at least one of an electronic patient database and~~or~~ an electronic hospital information system, and

_____—patient outcome data are stored as result data in the result database.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 6~~, wherein

_____—quality data ~~(20)~~ are determined from the result database ~~(64)~~ according to ~~preselected~~ quality criteria, and

_____—the quality data ~~(20)~~ are stored in the database ~~(12)~~.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1, ~~6 or 7,~~ wherein

—___quality data ~~(20)~~ are determined from the result database ~~(64)~~ according to the ~~preselected~~ quality criteria with a time delay, and

—___an access path to the result database ~~(64)~~ is assigned to the quality criterion.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein

——___a result database ~~(64)~~ denoted by the access path is automatically checked ~~at predetermined times~~ for the presence of the result data assigned to the quality criteria,_and

_____——when the result data are present, quality data are generated from them according to the quality criteria and stored in the database ~~(12)~~.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein

——___a quality measure ~~(60, 68)~~ is determined as quality data ~~(20)~~,_and

——___a determination instruction for the quality measure ~~(60, 68)~~ is stored in the database ~~(12)~~.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein

——___the determination instruction is _at least one of_ a formula ~~or~~_and_ an expert rule.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in _claim 1_~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein_

_____——different users ~~(28)~~ use the same knowledge data ~~(20)~~ and quality data ~~(20)~~ assigned to the users ~~(28)~~ are determined therefrom,_and_

——___a ranking of the success rate of the users ~~(28)~~ is calculated from the quality data ~~(20)~~.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein

——___comparable knowledge data ~~(4)~~ are used and quality data ~~(20)~~ assigned to the knowledge data ~~(4)~~ are determined therefrom,_and_

— a ranking of the quality of the knowledge data ~~(4)~~ is calculated from the quality data ~~(20)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein
— knowledge data ~~(4)~~ are released for use by the user ~~(28)~~ only after the user ~~(28)~~ has assigned their identification to the knowledge data ~~(4)~~ or an access path for result data from the use of the knowledge data ~~(4)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein
— knowledge data ~~(4)~~ are released for use by the user ~~(28)~~ only after the user ~~(28)~~ has paid a fee, <u>and</u>
— the user ~~(28)~~ receives a reimbursement of the fee after storing the quality data ~~(20)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein
— the use of the knowledge data ~~(4)~~ is chargeable to the user ~~(28)~~, <u>and</u>
— the quality data ~~(20)~~, but not the assigned knowledge data ~~(4)~~, ~~can be seen~~<u>is</u> freely <u>viewable</u> by the user ~~(28)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein
— the date of the creation of the quality data ~~(20)~~ is stored in the database ~~(12)~~ together with the quality data ~~(20)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein
— <u>at least one of</u> medical treatment recommendations ~~or~~<u>and</u> advice ~~are~~<u>is</u> stored as knowledge data ~~(4)~~.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein
— __ medical guidelines are stored as knowledge data ~~(4)~~.

20. - 21. (Cancelled)

22.   (New)   The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein
quality criteria correlated with the knowledge data are stored in the database.

23.   (New)   The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein
quality data are determined from the result database according to quality criteria, and
the quality data are stored in the database.

24.   (New)   The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein
quality data are determined from the result database according to the quality criteria with a time delay, and
an access path to the result database is assigned to the quality criterion.

25.   (New)   The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein
quality data are determined from the result database according to the quality criteria with a time delay, and
an access path to the result database is assigned to the quality criterion.

26.   (New)   The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein
quality data are determined from the result database according to the quality criteria with a time delay, and
an access path to the result database is assigned to the quality criterion.

27.   (New)   The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein

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a result database denoted by the access path is automatically checked for the presence of the result data assigned to the quality criteria, and

when the result data are present, quality data are generated from them according to the quality criteria and stored in the database.

28. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the knowledge data is medical knowledge data.

29. (New)   A method for quality evaluation of electronically stored knowledge data the method comprising:

storing knowledge data in a database;

correlating quality data with the knowledge data stored in the database; and

automatically providing, upon the user accessing the knowledge data, the quality data to the user.

30. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the knowledge data is medical knowledge data.